

Reverend James E. Harris to include: Family Counseling and a Youth Christian Basketball League to reach the youth of the Clayton County community. After the most devastating natural disaster in the history of the United States struck in 2005, Dixon Grove Baptist Church responded to the needs of evacuees by providing assistance through its Community Food and Clothing Co-operative.

Please join me in honoring Dixon Grove Baptist Church and Reverend James E. Harris for their commitment to Jesus Christ's example of faith and giving. It is my sincere hope that the ministry and work of Dixon Grove Baptist Church prospers for another 50 years.

CAPUANO PROVIDES LEADERSHIP ON DARFUR

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, no crisis confronting the world is as grave as that in Darfur, Sudan, where genocide is a tragic fact. America's failure to act more vigorously in this regard is a grave error. It is true that there are other nations, including many in Africa—which bear some of the blame. But we must not let the inaction of others become a justification for our own failure to take steps that we know to be morally necessary to save lives. My colleague from Massachusetts, (Mr. CAPUANO), on his return from a trip to Darfur led by the gentlewoman from California, the Democratic Leader, wrote a forceful article in the Boston Herald for March 7th making the case for much firmer action by the U.S. and others in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, given the moral imperative of action, I hope all of our colleagues will agree with the gentleman from Massachusetts who writes that "I urge the President to fully support the U.N. peacekeeping mission and put the full weight of the U.S. military behind it. More troops, with a mandate to protect civilians, are desperately needed. . . . If the U.N. cannot meet this timetable, we must strengthen the AU force and provide additional civilian support."

Mr. Speaker, at a time when people compete with each other to stress the importance of the moral element in politics, our colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) has struck a clear note on one of the overriding moral issues of our time, and I join him in calling on the President and the rest of us to take prompt action.

U.S. MUST WORK TO HALT DARFUR GENOCIDE (By Michael Capuano)

We look back on the Holocaust and wonder how the world stood by while 6 million Jews were slaughtered. Never again, we pledged. Yet in 1994, 1 million Rwandans were massacred. Afterward, we declared it genocide and pledged never again. Many leaders later expressed deep regret over our inaction.

In 2003, our attention was drawn to Darfur, Sudan, where innocent civilians were being murdered, enslaved, raped and driven from their homes. We declared it genocide, but failed to act, again.

Since 2003, more than 400,000 people have been murdered in Darfur and 2 million more displaced. I just returned from Sudan, on a trip led by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

In Al Fashir, Darfur, we met with relief workers, traveled to Internally Displaced Persons camps and spoke with African Union (AU) personnel. This reinforced my conviction that genocide is still occurring, the government of Sudan is responsible and not enough is being done.

We also met with Sudanese government officials who claimed the suffering in Darfur was exaggerated. There were skirmishes over water and grazing rights, they said, but nothing to concern outsiders. They admitted funding the Janjaweed, the militias who attack civilians, yet vehemently denied genocide is occurring. Everyone else we spoke with, AU personnel and relief workers, recognize they are witnessing genocide.

There are 7,700 AU personnel on the ground. However, they don't have a mandate to protect civilians and lack sufficient resources. Without a drastic troop increase and outside logistical assistance, the AU will continue struggling. AU officials told us they need more support and are planning for the involvement of a United Nations force. But the government of Sudan, the perpetrators of the genocide, rejects U.N. involvement.

I have persistently called for the protection of civilians and an end to the violence. Attempts to address this crisis legislatively have faced resistance. I have tried to introduce amendments to a State Department bill and a Foreign Operations bill, authorizing the president to use all necessary means to stop the genocide. These amendments were blocked.

President Bush and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan recently discussed a U.N. peacekeeping force for Darfur. The president has publicly called for the doubling of peacekeepers. I urge the president to fully support a U.N. peacekeeping mission and put the full weight of the U.S. military behind it. More troops, with a mandate to protect civilians, are desperately needed and must arrive in the next couple of months. If the U.N. cannot meet this timetable, we must strengthen the AU force and provide additional civilian support.

President Bush recently said America was first to recognize the genocide in Darfur. He said, "Our country was the first country to call what was taking place a genocide, which matters—words matter."

Actions matter more. It's time to back our words up with action. Time is running out.

HONORING JOHN ROSS, DR. JENNIFER STEWART-WRIGHT, AND RAY BELL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to acknowledge the achievements of Tennesseans who have made a tremendous contribution to our community.

Savannah resident John Ross has committed a great deal of energy to the conservation of our state's wildlife and natural resources. In recognition of this work, he has been named 2004 Land Conservationist of the Year. John's passionate advocacy work and his effort to educate others on this issue are a great example to the community, and I want to thank him for his involvement.

Dr. Jennifer Stewart-Wright of Fairview was honored by the Harpeth River Watershed with the River Steward Award for her active work

on multiple restoration projects and her efforts as a professor at Tennessee State University. Dr. Stewart-Wright has made this a family affair with the assistance of her children, Selah and Jesse, who share their mom's passion for revitalizing and protecting our waterways.

Mr. Ray Bell of Franklin has been awarded the Lane W. Adams Quality of Life Award for his years of service to helping those diagnosed with cancer. A cancer survivor himself, Ray has dedicated countless hours not only to cancer patients but to their families as well. Ray's compassion and commitment are incredibly inspiring and a blessing for those facing this disease. We all thank him for his work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, thanking and congratulating these outstanding Tennesseans for making a difference in their communities.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER'S CELEBRATING 20 YEARS CREATING SUCCESSFUL WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES 1986-2006 CELEBRATING THE PAST CHALLENGING THE FUTURE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) is a nationally recognized nonprofit women's business assistance organization, devoted to providing services and programs that support and accelerate women's business ownership and strengthen the impact of women on the economy.

The year 2006 marks the beginning of the third decade of the WBDC's successful commitment to meeting the needs of women entrepreneurs for greater opportunities in business ownership. Founded in 1986 by S. Carol Dougal and Hedy M. Ratner, more than 50,000 women in Illinois have benefited from its programs and services including counseling, entrepreneurial training, child care business development, strengthening of emerging businesses, Latina Initiative providing business development programs in Spanish in economically disadvantaged communities, certification and business opportunities for women's business enterprises and financial assistance and loan packaging.

The WBDC has worked for 20 years to economically empower women and their families, striving to influence the larger political and economic environment in a way that encourages and supports women's economic empowerment and minority business development.

The WBDC has affected the national women's business landscape helping to establish women's business assistance centers in six states. Now there are over 10.6 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., employing over 19.1 million workers, and over 350,000 of those businesses are in Illinois. Minority-owned businesses are growing faster than all firms, and 1 in 5 women-owned firms in the U.S. is owned by a woman of color. Women-owned businesses nationally generate over \$2.46 trillion in sales.

In 2006 the Women's Business Development Center celebrates its 20th anniversary.